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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

JUNE, 1905

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REPORT
OF
THE PRESIDENT
OF
TRINITY COLLEGE

1905



HARTFORD, CONN.
1905

President's Report.

To the Trustees of Trinity College.

GENTLEMEN:— Herewith is submitted my annual report.

The total number of students registered during the year is 155.

Below is a table showing the number of students engaged in the several studies of the curriculum during the year. Some of these studies are definitely prescribed for specified classes. Others are required in preparation for the various degrees, but the students select their own time for undertaking them. Still others are purely elective. The prescribed studies are, however, those which students and Faculty and the general public would probably agree in regarding as essential, so that I doubt whether, if all our courses were purely elective, the general distribution of students among the several departments would be very greatly changed.

Department.	Number of Students.	Department	Number of Students.
Arabic,	1	History,	97
Astronomy,	2	Italian,	5
Chemistry,	64	Latin,	50
Civil Engineering,	17	Mathematics,	86
Drawing,	17	Natural History,	53
Economics,	45	Philosophy,	40
English,	114	Physics,	34
French,	56	Sanskrit,	1
German,	46	Shopwork,	5
Greek,	44	Spanish,	14
Hebrew,	5		

Names are counted twice in a few instances in which men take two courses in a single department.

It is hardly practicable that our professors, burdened as many of them are by an excessive amount of classroom work, should devote much of their time to original research, to authorship, or to the labors of the public lecturer. Nevertheless it appears from the reports from the departments that a creditable amount

of work outside the classroom has been done by our Faculty during the year.

Professor McCook has continued his labors as head of the "Cercle français" and of the German "Verein," Hartford associations of much influence in encouraging study of the French and German languages and literatures. He has also delivered several public lectures upon sociological subjects.

Professor Martin has lectured upon Oriental subjects, and has given instruction in Sanskrit to members of the Hartford Theological Seminary.

Professor Edwards has continued the special research work in which he has long been interested and has in press a report on the Holothurians collected in 1903 by the United States Steamer Albatross. He has published a paper in Vol. XXI of "Science" and has lectured in Hartford, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Minneapolis.

Professor Urban has lectured before the Philosophical Club of Wesleyan University and before a section of the Psychological Association. He has done editorial work on "The Psychological Review" and has contributed articles to the technical journals of his department.

Professor Perkins has published two articles in the American Journal of Science. He has also made a special study of radium and has delivered several lectures presenting the results of his investigations.

Professor Kleene has lectured in Hartford upon economic subjects.

Professor Honey has contributed papers to "The Mathematical Monthly."

Professor Genthe has published a paper in the "Zoologische Jahrbücher" and has begun work upon collections of free swimming copepods sent to the Laboratory by government officials.

It should be remembered that this is but the imperfect record of a part of the activities of our professors. Several have works in preparation that will be announced in the near future and all are constantly busy in the work of advancing their departments. It is by the request of the Faculty that the departmental reports are not incorporated in full in this document. The many valuable suggestions in these reports of professors of which no men-

tion is here made are either within the authority delegated to the Faculty, or else have been considered by the Executive Committee of the Trustees.

Before leaving this portion of my report, however, mention should be made of the Trinity College Floating Laboratory. Professor Edwards now has in hand nearly enough money for his purpose and an association has been incorporated, under the laws of the State of Connecticut, to hold the property and control the funds that have been or shall be contributed. It is in accordance with the wishes of your Board that this enterprise, distinctly a Trinity College affair, is financially independent of the Corporation.

The work of the Medical Inspector has been carried on with that officer's customary energy and thoroughness. The careful examination of each of the new students, at entrance, is most valuable and has been of great service, in several cases, in the detection of incipient weaknesses which might, if not discovered, have led to serious physical consequences. The Inspector has also kept careful watch of the general sanitary conditions of the College and grounds.

During the year lectures have been delivered before the College by General O. O. Howard, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, and Doctor Henry C. McCook. Mr. Charles W. Burpee of Hartford has generously given a course of lectures upon "Current Events" before the students in the department of History. Mr. Samuel Ferguson lectured before the students in the department of Physics, and presented to the Laboratory a complete Mercury Arc Rectifier, improved by himself and manufactured by the General Electric Company.

Special sermons have been delivered in the College Chapel by the Rt. Rev. Chauncey B. Brewster, D.D., by the Rev. George Hodges, D.D., and by the Rev. G. M. Brinley.

The discipline of the College has in general been unattended by serious friction. Trinity College, however, does not escape the evils, complained of in other similar institutions, which grow out of the exaggerated importance attributed by students to cases of petty illness. It is undoubtedly true that undergraduates expect to be excused from attendance upon College exercises for reasons which would not be operative in any other relation in life.

In this connection I quote, and heartily endorse, a few sentences from the latest report of Dean Hurlburt of Harvard College: "The fundamental difficulty in dealing with this evil of [sick-excuses] is in the fact that the excuses must be passed upon in the College office and not by a physician. I believe that the administration of this whole matter . . . should be removed from the office and put into the hands of the College physician . . . Practically it may be said that the College has but three rules — that a student shall be a gentleman, keep his engagements, and present satisfactory evidence of work. The student who cannot abide by these should seek membership in some other community." And again; "An administrative officer has no more difficult task than to make a student understand that there is, and should be, no difference between business in college and business in the world, and that dereliction in the one should bring as speedy a dismissal as it would in the other."

The general situation as to what is known as "Athletics" has not improved. More and more the supposed interests of the various sports absorb unduly the attention of the few, while healthful and improving recreation is neglected by the many whose physical limitations or whose more important occupations make it unlikely that they can attain athletic distinction.

Trinity has not escaped the widely prevalent demoralization due to the importance unwisely attributed to athletic success. We have had unpleasant evidence in our athletic history of blunted moral perceptions and of an indifference to the means made use of in attaining supposedly desirable ends, almost as discouraging as the corruption largely complained of in American business and political methods. Just at this writing there is an undoubted reaction among Trinity students against abuses of the sort here alluded to. It is my conviction that the best means of securing purity and reasonableness in athletics is insistence upon a higher intellectual standard and a reduction in the number of absences allowed to the athletic teams for their games.

The effort to raise among the alumni a fund of \$100,000, payable in five annual instalments, has not, so far, met with the success that was hoped for. At this writing (June 10th) the pledges aggregate \$39,595.00.

Other contributions have been made as follows:

From George E. Hoadley, Esq., to establish four scholarships in memory of his brother, the late Charles J. Hoadly, LL.D.,	\$4,000.00
From the estate of the late Mary A. Terry, to found a scholarship,	15,000.00
(This is to be paid about October 1, 1905.)	

Professor J. Ewing Mears, M.D., has pledged \$50.00 a year during his life as the income of a fund to be called the J. Ewing Mears Library Fund, and the sum of \$200 a year during his life as the income of a competitive scholarship to be known as the J. Ewing Mears Scholarship. The principal sums to continue these benefactions Dr. Mears has provided in his will.

\$1,400 contributed to the College by the late Miss Cornelia Boardman of Norwalk has been paid in by the executors of the estate of the late Dr. Pynchon.

Mrs. Lucretia H. Canfield of Hartford has established a fund of \$1,600, the income of which is to be used for necessary binding for the Library.

Funds for the assistance of needy students have been contributed to the amount of \$485 and for other special college purposes to the amount of \$155. Counting, then, the sums pledged and paid, the aggregate of contributions during the year is \$68,485.

It seems to me essential that the proposed alumni fund of \$100,000 should be completed, and to this end I propose to give considerable time next year to a personal canvass among our graduates. This work, however, can hardly be completed by one man, and it is earnestly hoped that the Trustees and Alumni who have thus far been so efficient in arousing interest in this matter and in soliciting subscriptions will not fail to continue their assistance.

A characteristic feature of college work, by which I am greatly impressed, is the great economic loss with which it is conducted. By this I mean that an expensive plant stands idle a large part of the time. To illustrate: our lecture-rooms are, on the average, occupied by classes only about two hours and forty minutes each per working day. The academic work is carried on during only two-thirds of the working days of a year.

Such a system would obviously be fatal to the prosperity of almost any other business or industry.

Now it is not claimed that a college can be managed exactly as a factory or an insurance office would be managed. Yet it does seem that the enormous investments in educational enterprises which characterize our time and country might be made to yield a larger return, and signs are not wanting that the public are impatient at the protracted vacations in colleges and at the slow progress made by young men in preparation for the duties of maturer life. In answer to this impatience we have witnessed the growth of "Summer Schools"; and, in one conspicuous instance, the organization of a great university so as to be in session for twelve months every year. It seems to me likely that most colleges must soon arrange to carry on their activities, in one way or another, with less interruption.

Without much doubt it is essential that professors should be given considerable periods of exemption from classroom work in order that they may carry on their own study and investigation, and in order that they may have ample opportunity for study of educational methods in other institutions. That a professor should be free from class work for three months every year, and should enjoy an occasional leave of absence for an entire year, is conducive to his highest efficiency. It is probable that a large number of our students would desire to take the summer term as a vacation, much as they do now. Another large number, however, would not care to do this, and the summer term would be of special benefit to persons otherwise occupied during the rest of the year.

Moreover, a strict arrangement of courses by terms would often enable men to get through college by working half the year and studying half the year, using to advantage the larger freedom arising from the summer session.

Were Trinity College to offer instruction for four terms a year, each term to continue for three months, the change would involve an increase in our teaching force and an increase in our salary account of at least thirty-three per cent. This means that for about \$12,000 addition to our annual expenses the efficiency of a plant and endowment roughly valued at \$2,000,000 might be very considerably increased.

It is perhaps difficult to continue this financial presentation to a definite conclusion as to profit or loss. But I am convinced that we are morally bound to take steps looking toward a more extensive use of our appliances for carrying on collegiate instruction, and I recommend that consideration be given to the plan in operation at the University of Chicago, where there is no cessation of activity at any time. Such a plan, if ever adopted at Trinity, would involve many changes. It would mean the adoption of the term of three months, instead of the year of eight or nine months, as the academic unit. It would mean, probably, a rearrangement of studies of great moment and considerable difficulty. But it would mean, I feel sure, an increase in our output, in the service rendered to church and state by the institution whose contribution to the training of American youth is our special pride.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. S. LUTHER,
President.

TRINITY COLLEGE, June 10, 1905.